

IFSI NEWSLETTER



FALL 2011

From the Director's Desk

Today, resources are tight for everyone. Too often training becomes a discretionary expense that is among the first expenses that departments cut. If your training budget has not been able to keep pace with your training needs, IFSI can help.

Last month, the Illinois Firefighter's Association donated an additional \$30,000 to help IFSI produce and distribute during the next year three additional Down and Dirty DVD training programs to every fire department and fire protection district in Illinois. We are remaking the original 3-CD program on Fire Fighting Skills to include a comprehensive instructor guide and high quality videos. This DVD set will cover some of the same core skills that are required to become state-certified as a Basic Firefighter and that are covered in Core Competencies under our Cornerstone Program. Fires on the Farm (which has already been available for delivery as a Cornerstone Course) will provide a comprehensive course on the various hazards and fire fighting considerations in rural and farm-based scenarios. Fire Attack will provide video and instructional guides on reading the building, master stream operations, ventilation, farm structures, flammable liquids and vehicle fires. We have already produced and distributed to you Engine & Pump Operations, Rural Water & Tender Operations, Fireground Support and Aerial Operations. If you cannot locate your copy or would like your own, they can be downloaded from our web site at:

<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/virtual%20campus/downAndDirty/>.

Together, these products provide you with current, high-quality training products that you can use in your daily, weekly, monthly and annual training.

Cornerstone courses are now funded as part of our annual appropriation and the IFSI Regional Representatives are available to meet with you to schedule IFSI-delivered Cornerstone courses in your area or at live-fire weekend training at IFSI. Through our

web site, nearly every Awareness-level fire service course is available to you; some even qualify to test to receive Office of the State Fire Marshal certification upon completion of all certification requirements. Selected National Fire Academy classes are available at no cost for regional delivery. On 28-29 January 2012, Winter Fire School will provide you an inexpensive training weekend filled with classes and the opportunity to share your learning with firefighters from around the state. Fire College will be 7-10 June 2012 offering four days of hands-on and live fire training.

As you can see, there is a rich diversity of high quality training available to you in your fire house, through your computer, in your region and at IFSI. Our goal as the State Fire Academy has always been to provide you with training and education programs, information through our state-of-the art library and from our nationally-recognized firefighter life safety research programs. Much of it is available at no cost to you, except for the time you must invest to use it.

I would encourage you to use us, to invite our regional representatives to your firehouse for a cup of coffee to discuss your training needs and how we can help you meet them. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me personally at jaehne@illinois.edu if you have an idea or concerns about how IFSI can better assist you or your department. As the Chinese say, every crisis presents an opportunity. I would hope that our resource "crisis" can help us seize the opportunity to work together even more effectively to ensure that every Illinois firefighter receives the high quality, critical training they need to do their job safely and effectively.

Richard Jaehne
Director

A blue ink signature of Richard L. Jaehne, written in a cursive style.

Richard L. Jaehne, Director

Director
Richard L. Jaehne

Deputy Director
Roger Lunt

Associate Director
John McCastland

Assistant Director
Brian R. Brauer

The Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Newsletter is published twice a year and is solely an educational and advisory aid to the fire service and individuals working to establish and maintain a fire safe environment in Illinois.

Opinions expressed in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official opinions of the Illinois Fire Service Institute unless otherwise noted in the article.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute will consider for publication articles or items of interest to the fire service of Illinois and encourages materials from all fire-related professions for consideration.

Persons interested in furnishing articles, should forward materials to: IFSI Newsletter, 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 or email information to Terri Hopper at hopper@fsi.illinois.edu. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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The 2012 wall calendar will be in the mail soon. Watch for your department's copy. As always, the most up-to-date schedule of classes can be found online at

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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Want your own copy of the IFSI newsletter?

Ask to be added to the mailing list by email to Terri Hopper (hopper@fsi.illinois.edu)

OR

A copy is available on our web site under ABOUT IFSI/Documents.

The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute is the State of Illinois Fire Academy. Our mission: To help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research.

The Institute has served firefighters of Illinois since 1925. Since that beginning we have identified eight Plateaus of Growth in serving Illinois firefighters. The plateaus are: Annual Fire College (1925 to present); Year-Round Field Staff—delivering Essential Skills Training (1950s to present); Statuary State Fire Academy (1979 to present); Research (1989 to present); Cornerstone Training (1998 to present); Chicago Fire Department partnership (1999 to present); Homeland Security Training Programs (1999 to present); and Visionary Planning. Each of these plateaus surfaced to address the training needs of firefighters and other community first responders.

I reference our history because it defines us in so many ways. It shows how we have taken our responsibility to our mission very seriously for more than 86 years. It also suggests why we are viewed as leaders in fire service training and have students from around the world.

This past year, we decided to revisit our past efforts of gathering live-fire training data. We know that live-fire training in fixed facilities and acquired structures can be of great benefit to the new recruit, as well as the senior firefighter or officer. We realize that these can be done safely. Our confidence comes from an extensive history of numerous, safe live-fire training sessions.

We will formalize how we will obtain data from our live-burn training environments. At a minimum, IFSI will collect data on: fuel loads, structural details, training objectives, photo and audio recording of activities, fire room temperatures at multiple levels – including temperatures in areas identified as safe havens for the firefighters, training objectives, and instructor credentialing. It is important that we document why IFSI has successfully trained thousands safely in live-fire evolutions.

To date we have gathered data from our Firefighter Academy and one rural acquired structure training session. We will gather additional data from both of these training settings this fall.

We believe that the human factor – IFSI staff and instructors play a prominent role in delivering safe and beneficial training. We are documenting threatening environments that, without the experience-based decisions and actions of our instructors, would place unreasonable risk to all. We also see that the IFSI instructor understands the importance of objective-driven

News Notes

training that meets the needs of firefighter and officer. Within the next six months I will provide greater details from this project.

*Roger Lunt
Deputy Director*

While we conduct acquired structure live-fire training sessions year round, the burn season on campus is restricted to eight months of the year. July and August are dedicated to time, attention and funding for the maintenance of our campus burn structures. With the exception of a major ceiling repair to the second floor of the tower, all burn buildings are ready for another full eight months. The second floor of the tower should be fully functional by the end of October.

Fire Fighting Program Director, Brad Bone has designed movable shelving units that on several drills, will replace our current burn pans. The benefit will be a more realistic fire environment with a greater distribution of the heat and over the ceiling.

If you are a stoker or instructor involved with live-fire training in our burn buildings, you now receive orientation prior to the training activity. The orientation brief addresses issues of safety and protection of our burn buildings.

We will continue to build upon the 8 Plateaus of Growth, and serve to accomplish the IFSI mission. Live-fire training is a part of IFSI. Doing it safely, with a meaningful service benefit for fire departments, is a responsibility we will always take very seriously.

Be Safe



Table Talk

*Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director*

In case the word has not made it to a “theater” near you – the Homeland Security Grant funding for the State of Illinois is declining. There are several agencies that jumped on the wagon early on and have a large number of their Team members trained; and we still have numerous teams that have yet to take full advantage of the training opportunities afforded by the grant. Several months ago at

the annual Mobile Support Team Leaders meeting it was announced that the way teams manage their rosters was going to change; those changes will be announced at a Mobile Support Team Leaders meeting to be held at the MABAS Headquarters in early October.

Long story short, funding is becoming less available, as this article is being written we (IFSI) are conducting Homeland Security Grant budget reviews to determine how we can best deliver the SWMD programs that we have had over the past ten years. Not really sure how it will shake out, but if you have players that still need to be trained, pay attention to the news coming out of IFSI relative to class deliveries, and the word coming out of MABAS on Mobile Support Team Roster Maintenance. There will be limited opportunities to get the training your teams need and you will want to be sure to take advantage of what training is being scheduled.

Both IFSI and MABAS have a shared interest in Team training—the teams are MABAS Teams, and IFSI is the ITTF training agency for Homeland Security Grant consideration as outlined in the ITTF policy. Because of this shared interest, both IFSI and MABAS sat at the same table to work on the modifications that will be forthcoming to the Team Roster maintenance policy. The ultimate responsibility for keeping the rosters updated; however, is up to the local Team Leaders. As things get tighter and tighter it is critical that local agencies, who have members on any of the TRT or HazMat Teams, stay on top of the issues relating to class registrations, roster maintenance and reimbursement.

IFSI will continue to work to identify issues that need to be addressed to keep team skills at an acceptable level, plus help those who have been assigned the role of Team Leader, yet may have never been in a leadership posi-

tion. The finishing touches are being applied to yearlong project to develop a Mobile Support Team Leaders course that covers from pre-deployment to your return to Quarters. An initial pilot will run this November and hopefully the program will roll out in spring of 2012.

The IFSI relationship with the City of Chicago Fire Department continues to gain strength. For the past couple of years IFSI has been provided office space at the R.J. Quinn Fire Academy. Due in large part to this successful relationship, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance that allows the Fire Commissioner to enter into agreement with IFSI, to provide assistance to the Division of Training in the development and delivery of training to the uniformed members of the CFD. We have just completed a Truck Company class that provided each member of the city's Hook & Ladder Companies with eight hours of hands on training at acquired structures, in topics ranging from ground ladders to large area search. We are also working with the CFD on program development, continuing education for Chief Officers, a comprehensive program of continuing education for Fire Suppression Companies, Forcible Entry, as well as Incident Safety Officer. By the time this article hits the street, the newly promoted Battalion Chiefs, Captains and Lieutenants will have completed five weeks of programs in Fire Prevention Principles, Instructor I, Management I, Tactics I and Incident Safety Officer. The Division of Special Operations continues to send CFD members of the Squad and Team Companies to the numerous IFSI/SWMD classes offered through the Homeland Security Grant UASI funding

If you have never had the opportunity to visit the Quinn Fire Academy, I would suggest that you may want to take the trip. From the time you enter you are exposed to the history and tradition of the organization.

So all that being said. It's time to strike it out, if you have questions, comments, or concerns give me a call, put the coffee pot on and we'll talk.

Stay Safe !!
MAC

ProBoard Accreditation Adds More Value to IFSI Classes

Starting on 1 July, IFSI began offering ProBoard Fire Service Professional Qualifications System certificates for all IFSI courses that are accredited by the ProBoard. Simply put, the ProBoard is the fire fighting equivalent of the National Registry for EMTs and Paramedics – the certificates are nationally recognized, and allow for standardization of responder training across the country. There are 60 entities that are accredited by the ProBoard – for more information on the ProBoard in general please visit www.theproboard.org, or watch their informational video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpZC6i8e5aI>.

IFSI is currently accredited for the following classes: Rope Rescue Operations and Technician; Confined Space Operations and Technician, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Instructor I and II; Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations; and Incident Safety Officer. For these courses, the ProBoard Seal will be on the downloadable certificate when it becomes available following the class – no additional forms or payment are necessary. IFSI is paying the certificate fee on the student's behalf.

Additionally, persons that have an Illinois Fire Officer I or II certificate from the Office of the State Fire Marshal can apply to IFSI for a ProBoard certificate for

their respective level. There is a \$15.00 application fee for the Fire Officer I and II ProBoard certificates.

If a firefighter obtained their certificates for any of the above courses from an agency in Illinois other than IFSI, they can challenge the IFSI ProBoard Accredited exam. This process involves paying a fee, taking a written exam and completing course practicals, and upon successful completion the firefighter is eligible to apply for a ProBoard certificate.

In the coming months, IFSI will be focusing on accrediting our Hazardous Materials Technician A and B Programs; Firefighter Basic and Advanced (NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and II respectively); Structural Collapse Operations and Technician; Vehicle and Machinery Operations and Technician; and Trench Operations and Technician. The addition of a full-time testing specialist and an additional curriculum specialist (Jason Griest and Josh Zimmerman) in the summer of 2011 is allowing us to move forward with these additional accreditations to better serve the Illinois Fire Service.

Please contact Brian Brauer brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu with any questions related to ProBoard.

*Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director*



Illinois Fire Service Institute classes accredited by ProBoard.

NFPA Standard	No.	Levels to which IFSI is Accredited
Driver/Operator	1002	Pumper, Mobile Water Supply
Rescue Technician	1006	Rope Rescue I, II, I/II; Confined Space I, II
Fire Officer	1021	Fire Officer I, II
Fire Inspector	1031	Fire Inspector I, II
Fire Instructor	1041	Fire Instructor I, II
HazMat	472	Responder Awareness, Operational - Core
FD Safety Officer	1521	Incident Safety Officer

Fire Fighting Programs Changes, Updates and Enhancements

*Brad Bone
Fire Fighting
Program
Director*

By the time that you see this article, the fall burn season or campaign will be upon us and the Fire Fighting Program staff will be busy with classes on campus. This fall's schedule has some interesting developments that you may have heard about through the rumor mill. I thought I would take a few moments to highlight a few of them.

First, the Academy class is doing well and we have another full class this fall. The fall class of 2011 will be the last Certified Firefighter II Academy. The spring of 2012 class will be the first Firefighter Basic class to use the new curriculum. Along that line, we want to thank Rich Valenta and his distance learning staff for helping us get our curriculum updated. The Academy continues to be one of our foundation classes. While there have been changes over the past 15 years, we feel that the six week program still provides firefighters with the best opportunity to get live burn, hands-on training in the state. I say this not solely because of our staff, although they are a very dedicated group, but also because of the depth and diversity of our props. We are lucky to have them and the ability to continue to teach in a live burn environment.

The addition of the Streetscape prop last year gives us a well-rounded selection for teaching firefighters of all ranks. We have continued to improve on the Streetscape prop

and during this summer added apartments on the third floor, a functioning alarm system, and a Class A Smoke system in the west wing of the prop. We continue to learn more creative ways to use the prop and have found that although it was primarily designed as a tactical simulator for our company officer classes, almost all of the Fire Fighting Program classes are using it.

This fall IFSI is offering two RIT Under Fire classes instead of one. This opportunity was made possible through a grant from Motorola. Students in both classes will attend with no tuition cost. It is our hope that the grant will be renewed next year and we will be able to provide this opportunity again. The classes this fall will include firefighters from California to New York, and from Texas to Canada as well as a few from Belgium and Korea.

When you receive your 2012 IFSI calendar, you will notice that Engine Company Operations and Truck Company Operations are not listed. There are a couple of reasons for this. First is that these classes have not been filling well over the past couple of years. The second reason is that we are updating the curriculum and course syllabus. We hope that they will up and back on line the following year.

I hope that you have an opportunity to come to the IFSI campus this year for a fire fighting class or just to take a tour of the facility and see our new props.

Winter Fire School

Make plans to attend the 2012 Winter Fire School January 28 - 29 in Champaign, Illinois

This year's four-hour class topics:

Firefighter, Fire Engine and Fire House Training
Farm and Rural Fire Fighting and Rescue

Roadway Vehicle Extrication
Modern Fire Prevention
Officer and Leadership

Enroll for the low fee of \$50. Choose your classes when you arrive. Receive a certificate when you attend three classes.

Enrollment begins October 31. Watch for details at www.fsi.illinois.edu

Testing Procedures Update

Testing Changes

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has updated its testing policies to strengthen the credibility and reliability of the testing process. These changes became effective the 1st of July 2011. Many of these changes occur behind the scenes and relate to how exam questions are created, validated and secured. However, you will observe some differences in the exam format, answer sheet, course processing time, and the student - proctor relationship.

ProBoard Certification

Since the spring IFSI has received several new course accreditations from ProBoard. IFSI now offers ProBoard accredited courses for a growing number of courses. The curriculum office is proud to announce the addition of Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations and Fire Department Incident Safety Officer.

To date, IFSI now offers a ProBoard certificate with the following classes:

Jason Griest
Curriculum
Support

ProBoard Accreditations	NFPA Standard	IFSI Classes that meet the Certification
Pump Operator Mobile Water Supply	1002	Fire Apparatus Engineer or Fire Apparatus Pump Operator Fire Apparatus Mobile Water Supply
Rope Rescue I Rope Rescue II	1006	Rope Rescue Operations Rope Rescue Technician Series of 2 classes: Confined Space Operation & Technician (Both courses must be taken to receive a ProBoard certificate. After the completion of both courses the student will receive a certificate for both, Level I & II)
Confined Space I & II		
Fire Officer I Fire Officer II	1021	Series of 4 classes: (Fire Prevention Principles, Management I & II, Tactics I) or Fire Officer I (DOD Students) Series of 3 classes: (Management III & IV, Tactics II) or Fire Officer II (DOD Students)
Fire Inspector I Fire Inspector II	1031	Fire Inspector I Fire Inspector II
Fire Instructor I Fire Instructor II	1041	Instructor I Instructor II
Haz Mat Responder Awareness Haz Mat Operational-Core	472	Hazardous Materials Awareness Hazardous Materials Operations
Incident Safety Officer	1521	Fire Department Incident Safety Officer

In the coming months IFSI will be offering ProBoard certificates for Trench Rescue, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Vehicle Machinery.

Your Regional Representative is your personal link to Cornerstone classes and information on how to take advantage of IFSI training.

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Northeast Region



Randy
Schlichter
Cornerstone
Northeast
Region

Greetings from the land up north.

As a result of a recent Cornerstone region realignment, DeKalb County has been added to the Northeast Cornerstone region (see map next page). I have already started contacting DeKalb county departments and look forward to meeting everyone.

Our Cornerstone funding is in place and we are off to a fast start. Due to the poor economy and fire department budget cut backs, our **NO COST** Cornerstone classes appear to be the “best deal in town.” Please get your requests for training in early as it takes 30 days to process and schedule them. You can download the Request for Cornerstone Training forms from the IFSI web site. Look under the ABOUT IFSI button on the top menu bar.

Something new watch for my monthly regional training activities mass e-mail flyer that will be sent to departments in my area. This is a training notification for firefighters and fire departments listing departments that are hosting no-cost training in Lake, McHenry, Boone, Winnebago and DeKalb counties. Please ask your training officer to post the flyer on your department training bulletin board. If you are not receiving the flyer and would like

to be placed on the e-mail list, drop me a line at rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu.

As a reminder, the Northeast Region has a Regional Training Center at the Cherry Valley Fire Department in Rockford. The Cherry Valley RTC hosts four “Light & Fights” per year. The “Light & Fights” are weekend live-fire classes and an excellent opportunity for students to get live fire experience.

The three remaining “Light & Fight” dates are:

- October 15
- March 24
- May 5



To register call Sue at the Cherry Valley Fire department (815-322-5382). If you have questions on anything for the Northeast Region, do not hesitate to contact me at rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu.

*Stay Safe
Randy*

How to request a Cornerstone Class and where to find the Cornerstone Request for Training form.

1. www.fsi.illinois.edu
2. Click on COURSE INFORMATION (upper left on maroon bar)
3. Click on COURSE RELATED FORMS (4th bullet down under Courses)
4. Click on Cornerstone Request for Training
5. Print and fill out the form for each class requested and submit to your Regional Representative.



From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Goin' South

With the harvest pretty much completed, maybe it is time to look at training that could aid our area farmers. IFSI's Cornerstone Program has several classes designed to assist in Agricultural Emergency Training. Some of these programs are: Fires on the Farm, Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies, Grain Bin Rescue, and Agricultural Rescue Techniques. This training can make a great difference during an emergency. Two years ago, an area fire department (6 miles from where I live) with the help of mutual aid saved a person during a grain bin entrapment. Some of their personnel had completed the Grain Bin Rescue training and was able to save the person's life. Many County Farm Bureaus have aided with this training. Several of these classes are in great demand so get your requests in early to reserve the needed props for the training.

Another option for "free" training is the National Fire Academy "Hand-off"

classes. These classes are usually 12 – 16 hours in length. They can be presented at your station or at the Regional Training Centers. We need a minimum of 20 students to host these classes. Some of the classes that are in demand are: Incident Safety Officer, Leadership I: Strategies for Company Success, Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success, and Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success. These are some great classes which are free to your personnel. We do ask that you pre-enroll for these classes.

There are several fire officer programs going on in the South. Williamson County Fire is hosting a Fire Officer II Program. In the Metro East Area, a Fire Officer I program is well underway. Watch the calendar or our website for more Fire Officer Classes. They are being hosted in more areas than ever. Good luck and stay safe.

Southern Region



*Les Albert
Southern
Regional
Representative*

Northwest
Ray Palczynski
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Northeast Randy Schlichter
847/343-4039
rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu

Chicago Metro
Richard Stack
773/988-0259
rstack@fsi.illinois.edu

Central
Les Lockwood
217/855-5546
llockwoo@fsi.illinois.edu

East Central
Greg Fisher
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

Southwest
John Nichols
618/973-2059
jnichols@fsi.illinois.edu

Southern
Les Albert
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu

Cornerstone Regions



From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Southwest Region



*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*

This acquired structure house burn was one of the highlights for the Southwest region during the spring. There were 37 students from six different departments. We were able to get 15 evolutions completed before the house was allowed to burn to the ground.

I would like to thank Chief Robert Pollett of Livingston Fire Department for sponsoring the event. Also thanks to the hard work by Dale Hendricks and Don Schwander for their efforts in getting the permits needed to do the event.

The fiscal year ended on June 30. I think the Southwest Region had a very good year

of training through the Cornerstone program. There were 103 classes held in all 11 counties with 71 departments and 1600 students attending classes this fiscal year.

As fall gets into full swing, it's time to start thinking of what training you wish to do this fall and winter. It is not too early to set up classes for the upcoming months. Please allow at least 30 days for your request to be completed. If any department needs help in applying for a class, please give me a call and we can get together and set up the class.

Photo by Monica Hendricks



Northwest Region



*Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative*

Greetings from the Northwest Territory. It was nice to keep cornerstone classes rolling without a miss this summer. Classes in the Northwest region are going strong with many offerings for Technical Rescue Awareness and Fire Service Vehicle Operator. There are several more opportunities to take advantage of the grain bin rescue training this fall with the newly redesigned prop.

You provide the corn and we'll provide the props! Keep an eye on the monthly training updates mailed out near the first of each month. If you do not receive the Northwest Region's monthly training update email and would like to please drop me an email at rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu and I'll add you to my list!

Chicago Metro Region

The Chicago Metro Region welcomes a new representative. Following the retirement of Jim Streu, who served as this region's rep since 2008, IFSI named Richard Stack as his replacement.

Richard is a 16-year veteran of the fire service, starting first as a volunteer for the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Department, and now serving on the Chicago Fire Department for the last ten years. Rich fills his time working part-time for

the North Palos Fire Department and has been a member of IFSI's field staff since 2006. He is also an instructor for the Chicago Fire Department and the College of DuPage.

Rich has been a member of the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (FOOLS) since 2003, is president of the Southside FOOLS and secretary/treasurer for FOOLS International.



*Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative*



To find out what classes are available in your area, visit the IFSI web site at www.fsi.illinois.edu and click on COURSE INFORMATION in the upper left hand corner and then click on COUNTY MAP SELECTOR.

How to Print a Certificate

We are now issuing a certificate for any training taken through IFSI, regardless of the number of hours of the training. This certificate will not be mailed through the U.S. Postal System, however it is available on the Student Resource Center (see page 24 on how to access the Student Resource Center).

The certificates will include any EMS hours and site code, if applicable. There will no longer be a separate certificate just for this.

These certificates will remain on your course history and can be printed by you at any time that you need.

Process to access a certificate:

- Log into the Resource Center from the IFSI website www.fsi.illinois.edu.
- Choose My Account tab.
- Click on Course History under Tools.
- Your Unofficial History will now be displayed. Scroll to the far right of the screen and under Status will say Certificate.
- Click on the word Certificate and the document will open and is now available for printing.

PLEASE NOTE! It may take up to six weeks for a class to be processed and your certificate link to become available.

Pro-Board certificates are obtained outside of IFSI's system. Contact Terri Hopper at hopper@fsi.illinois.edu for the application.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Joe Drennan
Vehicle/
Machinery
Rescue
Program

Vehicle/Machinery

With the new Illinois designations for firefighter (basic and advanced), Vehicle Machinery Operations will be a required class for Advanced Firefighter Certification. This new rule is creating a higher demand for this class and I have had many requests from departments on what needs to be done to have a class at their location.

First, a Request for Training form needs to be submitted to IFSI. You can get this from your Regional Representative or by downloading it from the IFSI website (see instructions on page 8).

For the class at your department, you will need to supply the following:

- A suitable classroom that can accommodate up to 32 students.
- A Power Point projector. (If you cannot supply one, arrangements can be made for the instructor to bring one. The instructor will need to know at least two weeks in advance.)
- A suitable practical training site. An area of 100 feet by 100 feet is suitable.
- Enough cars for the class. The rule of thumb is one car per student. The exact total is determined by the number of participants. Four-door cars are the best choice.

IFSI uses a 1:8 instructor to student ratio for Vehicle/Machinery Operations classes; however, exceptions can be approved by IFSI management.

The IFSI Vehicle/Machinery tool trailer can be requested for a fee. If the department uses its own tools, they will have to supply the following:

- cribbing - 2" x 4', 4" x 4" and step chocks
- glass breaking and removal tools
- recip saws and blades (at least 25 blades)
- 2 hack saws and blades (10 blades)
- com-a-long with rated and approved chains
- air chisels and bits
- air bottles or a cascades system
- set of heavy hydraulics - either a combo tool and a ram or spreader, cutters and ram
- set of lift bags, regulator, hoses and controls

These items have to be supplied for every group being taught. For example: if there are three groups of students, three complete sets of tools are required. One set of lift bags will suffice all groups.

You may be interested in hosting or contracting the training. The class is 40 hours in length and there are a couple of delivery schedules to consider. It is best to contact me with questions surrounding these options.

I can be contacted at jdrennan@fsi.illinois.edu or by phone at 1-773-851-3627.

Be careful, safe and have a great day. ~ Joe

OSFM now requires Vehicle/Machinery Ops for Advanced Firefighter Certification.

Upcoming Vehicle/Machinery Classes at the Champaign campus

Vehicle/Machinery Technician: November 14, 2011
Vehicle/Machinery Operations: April 23, 2012

From the Campus: Program Reports

Wildland

“Attack from the Black”

First, congrats to those Illinois firefighters who have been serving on crews and filling single resource orders across the nation this season. Performance ratings have been stellar! I am not surprised however as we all know “Land of Lincoln” fire personnel train hard, work hard and practice what they teach and preach.

It has been a tough year for wildland firefighters around the nation. Near misses, injuries and line-of-duty deaths have spiked in the wildland community this season. In reviewing the circumstances and lessons learned information, there seems to be a common thread – a loss of situational awareness and unanticipated changes in fire behavior. The necessity to understand how fires behave in light flashy fuels (the most prominent fuel model in Illinois) coupled with changes in topography and weather cannot be stressed enough. These fundamental concepts are the core of the National Wildfire Coordinating Groups G-130/190 Basic Wildland Crosswalk

program delivered by the IFSI wildland staff. This free 20-hour training program ties the “big three” – fuels, weather and topography – to the most basic tactical operations suggested for here at home – anchor and flank and attack from the black. These practices which have been proven to be highly effective may be the best way to deal with our ground cover fires here in the “prairie state.” We stress and put to the test these principles during the live-fire portion of the program. Key elements for developing and maintaining proactive situational awareness are examined in the classroom and put into motion by personnel placed in frontline officer and lookout positions during field operations.

It’s not just a grass fire folks, if you don’t believe me ask some firefighters from the Carolinas, Kansas, Kentucky, South Dakota and Texas. They know the truth. Let us help you with a refresher on the basics. Contact us at www.fsi.illinois.edu or me personally at trichter@fsi.illinois.edu

Remember stay calm, think clearly, act decisively and “attack from the black”!

*Tom Richter
Wildland Fire
Fighting
Program*

Agricultural Rescue

Greetings Brothers and Sisters: This summer, and now the fall, have been busy times for the Ag Program. Grain bin class requests are still coming in and Ag Rescue requests are increasing. I have also received requests for the spring of 2012. In June I was able to find a fabricator to finish the mounting of the new grain bin entrapment prop, which will make it easier to move around to training sites.

In July I spoke at a fund raiser for the Grain Handling Safety Coalition in Mount Carroll. The event also served as the one-year anniversary memorial for two young men who were killed in a grain bin incident. I had the opportunity to meet the young

man who survived the incident, bringing a new perspective to what we do. The small town of Mt. Carroll raised over \$3,700 for the coalition.

The Institute had a presence at this year’s Farm Progress Show in Decatur. We used the new prop to demonstrate the dangers of entrapment. The harvest season is underway and once again time to remember safety is the first priority on the farm. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you as we travel the state.

Photos of the new ag rescue prop are on page 25.

*Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports

Homeland Security

*Joe Gasparich
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Program
Director*

As we look at the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, there are many questions being asked about how we as first responders have proceeded in our training and preparedness since the attacks. I have participated in numerous training classes and exercises since that day and I can report to you the facts as I have seen them.

Foremost, I have seen a positive change in the uniformity of the training that has been delivered in the state of Illinois and the Nation. In the years prior to 2001, there were as many variations of the training programs as there were states. Illinois had the "Illinois way of training," Indiana had the "Indiana way of training," New York State had the "New York way of training," etc. The push towards a common operating picture (namely the Incident Command System – ICS) has resulted in New York City firefighters training Illinois students in the various aspects of the National Incident Command System, Illinois instructors training Missouri students in the same system and Illinois instructors training Federal responders in the same system.

I have also observed that in both exercise and in actual events, the responders are working towards a common goal because of the training that has been delivered. In the recent southern Illinois flooding that the State of Illinois response agencies participated in, there was commonality in the response. One Incident Action Plan was used and it was generated by the responders at the Area Command in Marion, Illinois. Responders from several Illinois agencies, local response and private organizations used this plan as a guideline for their response to the flood. This was a pro-active approach to the flood response and served as a blueprint for things to come in Illinois.

I also feel that through the efforts of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, there has been commonality in equipment acquisition and training for the equipment. In our validation events at the Fire Service Institute for Hazardous Material Teams and Technical Rescue Teams, the ability to share like equipment has been a plus in making the responses more efficient and effective.

There is much work to do! Jurisdictions must see to it that training is carried on. I do not know how many responders in Illinois have retired since September 11, 2001, but I suspect that the number would surprise us. Common training (such as ICS) must be institutionalized so that continuity is established. Conscious efforts are needed to continue the good work that has been done in both training and preparedness efforts.

Perhaps the best example that I can use is the state of Illinois response to the City of New Orleans after the Katrina event. The Illinois Incident Management Team was a collection of responders who had completed the All Hazards Incident Management Team Training Class. This collection of responders was married up with a FEMA Type 1 team from the Pacific Northwest, a Type 2 team from the City of New York and managers from the city of New Orleans Fire Department who were learning ICS as part of their "on-the-job-training" and the system worked!

For further information on ICS courses and the NIMS system please visit: <http://www.ready.illinois.gov/Nims/>

A complete list of Homeland Security classes offered by IFSI can be found at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/homeland%20security/>

From the Campus: Program Reports

Officer Program

As I am writing this update, I can't help but think of a firefighter that I had the honor to meet last week. My chair is soft, my coffee is hot and I'm feeling rested, all while Firefighter Chris Rupp from Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, rides his bike from San Francisco to New York City – a pace of over 100 miles a day that brings physical and mental anguish. Firefighter Rupp set out on this journey because he felt a duty and obligation to “give something back” to the fire service. Very respectable as we observe the ten-year mark of September 11.

Our Fire Officer program has undergone an overhaul this past year and I am excited to get it “on the street.” The Fire Officer I and II programs have been updated to meet the current NFPA 1021 standard. Our team has added the most current material with the best real life, hands on, blue collar approach to Officership. Classes are being offered throughout the state from the North to the South. Many classes are offered in the Chicago Metro region, Champaign region, Belleville, Downtown St. Louis Airport, as well as Williamson County. Let us know if IFSI can help you with a class in your area that may fit your training needs, such as nights or weekends.

Over the past six years IFSI has been working with the Chicago Fire Department in a promotional series for new officers to the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief. This remarkable program consists of a month-long series of class-

room and “hands-on battleground” training. With the assistance and direction of Commissioner Bob Hoff and Director of Training Pete VanDorpe, I am very confident that this program will be the model for Officer training in our fire service.

Enrollment for Fireground Company Officer and Command Officer School is filling up quickly. These programs run every spring and fall and you should register now to ensure enrollment. This program is in its 25th year and is still running strong. As an Officer or someone who is aspiring to become an Officer, do yourself a favor and sign up now. It could very well be the best thing you can do for your career as a fireground leader.

Our team has added the most current material with the best real life, hands on, blue collar approach to Officership.

Our Fire Officer I and II programs are the most current cutting edge classes taught by some of the best fire service instructors in the country. These dedicated firefighters work year round to develop and deliver the best classes that will help you lead and keep your members safe. This dedication comes from the same place in the heart that gives FF Chris Rupp the strength to ride 4,000 miles across the country to “give something back.”

By the way, Chris Rupp reached New York City on September 8 - two days ahead of schedule.

*Lew Lake
Officer
Program
Director*

Upcoming Officer Classes

Fireground Company Officer School; 40 hours; week of November 14, Champaign; Tuition: \$675
limited seats available

Tactics and Strategy II; 40 hours; week of November 28, Geneva; Tuition: \$250 limited seats available

Management I, 40 hours; week of December 5, Champaign; Tuition: \$250

Management III, 40 hours; week of December 5, Geneva: Tuition: \$250

From the Campus: Program Reports

Online Classes

*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

Greetings, I have been involved in training for the past thirty years. I have seen and experienced more training courses, activities and sessions, so many so that I have forgotten many of them. Interesting thing is, looking back I still remember some really quality courses, even back to the early years. I can think of only one good reason these sessions stayed with me, they were great activities well worth my time and effort.

Recently I was asked to develop the online course for Autism Spectrum and Similar Disorders in Emergency Situations. As I worked on the project it became evident that this was one of those courses that every emergency responder should take.

The Autism Awareness program was developed by IFSI in partnership with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal. It was created in response to the need for responders to be aware of how a person with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may respond differently during emergency situations. The program is focused on emergency situations and keeping both the person with ASD and the responder as safe as possible. It is not all inclusive, as there is much more to learn about Autism than can be practically presented here, so information is included at the end of the presentation on how to get additional information. The program was researched, drafted, peer-reviewed by persons who live and/or work with persons with Autism and other ASDs on a regular basis, and then adapted for online presentation.

To access the course, follow this link to register.

<https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/register/step1.cfm?activity=201200357&session=30176>

Once you register, you will receive an email providing directions on how to access and take the course. This is a self-paced course. Upon completion you will be provided directions on how to print your certificate.

My hat's off to those that created this terrific course. This is one that is well worth your time.

Be safe

Online Courses

- Basic Firefighter (formerly Certified Firefighter II)
- Technical Rescue Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Origin and Cause Awareness
- Ethanol Awareness
- Enhanced Grant Writing for FEMA AFG Grants
- Fire Service Vehicle Operator (Classroom portions only)
- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts

AND NOW

Autism Awareness

From the Campus: Program Reports

Institute Receives 5th DHS Grant

IFSI has received its fifth Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fire Prevention & Safety Research and Development grant. The grant for \$996,505 will fund research on the combined influence of design and size of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) on firefighter's metabolic stress and safety of movement.

Firefighter slips, trips and falls, plus overexertion and strain injuries are leading causes of firefighter line of duty injuries. This project will provide important information for firefighters, officers and department purchasing agents on the effects of alternate SCBA designs. From the research, decision-makers will be able to better assess SCBA design features that can impact firefighter safety.

The research team includes Dr. Bo Fernhall of the Kinesiology and Community Health department and Dr. Liz Hsiao-Wecksler of the Mechanical Science and Engineering Department. Also collaborating with the team is Dr. Karl Rosengren of Northwestern University's Department of Psychology.

This grant is the fifth IFSI has received from DHS. Other projects looked at the influence of firefighter personal protective equipment, as well as strenuous fire fighting activities, on firefighter's cardiovascular system. The most recent DHS grant-funded project is examining the influence of an aspirin regimen on firefighter's cardiovascular system.

*Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager*



The IFSI Research Program is wrapping up data collection on a FY2009 DHS Fire Prevention & Safety Grant that is studying the effect of aspirin on changes in the cardiovascular system after short term fire fighting.

The Firefighter Life Safety and Research Center will be seeking participants for its spring research activities. Watch the IFSI web site for details.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director
and Winter
Fire School
Director

Investigation

Fire Investigation Program Changes

This Fall IFSI will begin phasing in new fire investigation program curriculum resources. The three IFSI 40-hour fire and arson investigation classes have always followed objectives from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal based on the NFPA 1033 "Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator." IFSI staff and field staff instructors have produced instructor guides, student guides and power point presentations that meet the OSFM objectives. Much of the investigation program is also based on recommendations found in NFPA 921 "Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations." We've also used several references including "Kirks Fire Investigation" authored by John D. DeHaan, Ph.D. One problem we've encountered not having published curriculum has been the difficulty in maintaining class consistency.

A quality resource we've obtained to help coordinate the fire investigation classes is a recently published text book that serves the needs of entry level fire and arson investigators. The text is titled "Fire Investigator – Principles and Practice" and is a publication of Jones & Bartlett Learning. The book closely correlates each of its chapters to NFPA 1033 and follows

the chapter structure of NFPA 921. The text is endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, The International Association of Arson Investigators and the National Fire Protection Association. Each chapter within the text is authored by an individual or individuals with recognized expertise and experience within the subject area. Each chapter is also reviewed by additional nationally-recognized experts. This combination of structure, reference, authorship and review will make the text a valuable asset for the IFSI Fire and Arson Investigation Program.

The investigation program has depended greatly on host fire departments to support the delivery of the classes away from the IFSI campus. Over the past several years problems have grown involving the delivery of the practical components of the training. Past host departments have been very supportive but are often faced with obstacles to which no reasonable solution exists. The lack of suitable burn structures, required permits, junk automobiles and available burn sites has, in some cases, made class delivery less than desirable. Until such time as suitable solutions to these problems can be developed I plan to conduct more of the investigation classes on the IFSI campus where the necessary class resources are available. I will still make an effort to deliver some classes at different locations around the state but you will most likely notice a change in the locations for future schedules.

Make plans to attend the 2012 Winter Fire School January 28 - 29 in Champaign, Illinois

This year's four-hour class topics:

Firefighter, Fire Engine and Fire House Training
Farm and Rural Fire Fighting and Rescue

Roadway Vehicle Extrication
Modern Fire Prevention
Officer and Leadership

Library Updates & Highlights

An important segment of the IFSI Library collection is devoted to the subjects of leadership and management. This portion of the collection includes both general works on leadership and management and fire service-specific works. The materials come in a variety of formats, including books, videos and DVDs, CD-ROMs, and periodicals. Most recent fire service-specific leadership titles include (items are books unless otherwise specified):

- *Advanced fire administration*, 2012 by Randy R. Bruegman
- *American heat: 2005 March: Industry of a man : the fire career of Red Adair* (VHS)
- *Avoiding fire department induced CHAOS*, 2009 by Roger Lunt
- *Fire and emergency services administration: management and leadership practices*, 2006 by Charles L. Smeby
- *Fire and emergency services company officer*, 4th ed., 2007 by Frederick M. Stowell, Barbara Adams, Cynthia S. Brakhage
- *Fire and emergency services company officer*, 4th ed., *interactive study guide*, 2007 (CD-ROM)
- *Fire officer coaching*, 2005 by James M. Gaston and Riley Harvill
- *Fire service leadership: theories and practices*, 2008 by Mitchell R. Waite
- *First in, last out: leadership lessons from the New York Fire Department* by John Salka and Barret Neville
- *From buddy to boss : effective fire service leadership*, 2006 by Chase Sargent (also on CD-ROM, 2008)
- *Igniting the leader within: the leadership legacy of Ben Franklin, father of the American fire service*, 1998 by Michael F. Staley
- *A leadership guide for volunteer fire departments*, 2011 by Jack W. Snook, et al.
- *Managing the business of the fire department: keeping the lights on, the trucks running and the volunteers responding*, 2006 by John M. Buckman
- *Progressive leadership principles, concepts, and tools: the fire officer's guide to excellence in leadership*, 2010 by Dennis Compton
- *Strategic changes for the fire service in the post-9/11 era* by Douglas M. Weeks
- *Working fire: 2004 September: vol. 04-9*
"Kramer vs. Kramer: Leadership: Promotion vs. Hiring Talent" (DVD)

Recent management titles include:

- *The Fire Chief's Toolbox*, 2006 by Ron Graner
- *Fire officer: principles and practice*, 2010 by the International Association of Fire Chiefs
- *Fire service personnel management*, 2010 by Steven T. Edwards
- *Management in the fire service*, 2008 by Harry R. Carter, Ph. D and Erwin Rausch

The *International Fire Service Journal of Leadership and Management*, featuring peer-reviewed research, articles, and book reviews, is also available at the IFSI Library.

To borrow one of these items or other materials from the IFSI Library, please contact the library at (800) 437-5819, (217) 333-8925, or fsi@library.illinois.edu.

Please join me in welcoming our new Archivist and Metadata Librarian, David Ehrenhart.

"My duties include preserving the history of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, the history of fire service in Illinois, and honoring the contributions of Illinois firefighters. I will contribute to projects such as the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database (IFLODD) and the exhibits in the Firefighter Memorial Hall at the Learning Resource and Research Center. As the men and women making fire service history every day, I invite you to help me to preserve your efforts. The IFSI Library is continually seeking information to add to the IFSI Archives, the Illinois Fire Service Archives, information about fallen Illinois firefighters, and information about firefighters who have received either the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor or Medal of Valor. Contact me at ehrenha1@fsi.illinois.edu or 217-244-0783."

Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

David Ehrenhart
Archivist and
Metadata
Librarian

ADMINISTRATION

Richard Jaehne, *Director*
217/333-8926
jaehne@fsi.illinois.edu

Roger Lunt, *Deputy Director*
217/244-9674
rlunt@fsi.illinois.edu

John (Mac) McCastland, *Associate Director*
815/834-9201
jmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Brian R. Brauer, *Assistant Director*
217/333-9027
brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu

Harry Clore
Director of Budget & Resource Planning
217/244-6359
hclore@fsi.illinois.edu

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Dave Newcomb, *Program Manager*
217/778-6652
newcomb@fsi.illinois.edu

REGIONAL/CORNERSTONE REPS

Greg Fisher, *East Central Illinois*
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

Les Albert, *Southern Illinois*
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu

John Nichols, *Southwest Illinois*
618/973-2059
jnichols@fsi.illinois.edu

Raymond Palczynski, Jr.
Northwest & West Illinois
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Les Lockwood, *Central Illinois*
217/855-5546
llockwoo@fsi.illinois.edu

Randy Schlichter, *Northeast Illinois*
847/343-4039
rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu

Richard Stack, *Chicago Metro*
773/988-0259
rstack@fsi.illinois.edu

ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

Richard Valenta, *Program Director*
847/226-6106
rvalenta@fsi.illinois.edu

EMS PROGRAM

Sharon Dotson, *Program Manager*
217/333-4215
tbear@fsi.illinois.edu

FIRE FIGHTING PROGRAM

Brad Bone, *Program Director*
217/265-9438
bgbone@fsi.illinois.edu

Tad Schroeder
Assistant Program Director
217/333-8927
tjschroe@fsi.illinois.edu

LP, OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

Mark Clapp, *Program Manager*
217/244-7134
clapp@fsi.illinois.edu

FIRE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM**FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Eddie Bain, *Program Director*
217/333-9014
edbain@fsi.illinois.edu

WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING PROGRAM

Tom Richter, *Program Manager*
217/757-9362
trichter@fsi.illinois.edu

HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

ICS/NIMS/UNIFIED COMMAND/MT
Joe Gasparich, *NIMS Program Director*
217/825-7955
jgaspari@fsi.illinois.edu

Bill Farnum, *Incident Command / ICS*
217/333-0660
wfarnum@fsi.illinois.edu

OFFICER PROGRAM

Lew Lake, *Program Director*
708/670-4761
llake@fsi.illinois.edu

Les Albert, *Downstate Coordinator*
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu

INDUSTRY PROGRAM

John (Mac) McCastland, *Chicago Metro Coordinator*
815/834-9201
jmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Brian R. Brauer, *All other areas*
217/333-9027
brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM

Ray Palczynski, *Program Director*
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Chris Downey, *HazMat Program Manager*
217/244-4451
cjdowney@fsi.illinois.edu

Ryan Reynolds, *Confined Space Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
rreynlds@fsi.illinois.edu

Mike Woodard, *Rope Rescue Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
mwoodard@fsi.illinois.edu

Mike McCastland, *Structural Collapse Program Manager*
217/244-4168
mmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Heather Moore, *Trench Rescue Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
hmoore@fsi.illinois.edu

VEHICLE/MACHINERY RESCUE PROGRAM

Joe Drennan, *Program Manager*
773/851-3627
jdrennan@fsi.illinois.edu

CURRICULUM

Kurt Glosser
217/265-0582
kglosser@fsi.illinois.edu

MARKETING

Mary Auth, *Director of Marketing*
217/351-6373
mary@maryauth.com

LIBRARY

Lian Ruan, *Head Librarian*
217/265-6107
lruan@fsi.illinois.edu

Diane Richardson, *Reference*
217/244-0783
dlrichar@fsi.illinois.edu

David Ehrenhart,
Archivist/Metadata Librarian
217/244-0783
ehrenha1@fsi.illinois.edu

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dr. Gavin Horn, *Research Scientist*
217/265-6563
ghorn@fsi.illinois.edu

Dr. Steve Petruzzello, *Associate Professor*
petruzz@fsi.illinois.edu

Dr. Denise Smith, *Health and Safety Research*
dsmith@skidmore.edu

Sue Blevins, *Support*
217/265-6564

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Bob Foster, *Facilities Manager*
217/841-5951
rbfoster@fsi.illinois.edu

Mark Berg, *Operations Specialist*
217/333-2905
markberg@fsi.illinois.edu

BUSINESS, INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF

Eric Barnes, *Fire Service Support Specialist*
217/265-0830
ebarnes@fsi.illinois.edu

Jodi Beccue, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6674
jbeccue@fsi.illinois.edu

Kristy Berbaum, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6185
kberbaum@fsi.illinois.edu

Nicole Billman, *Business Operations*
217/244-6835
nbillman@fsi.illinois.edu

Terri Hopper, *Chief Registrar*
217/244-7131
hopper@fsi.illinois.edu

Ann Jack Haluzak, *HazMat Program Operations Specialist*
217/244-6228
jackhal@fsi.illinois.edu

Char Carlier, *Financial Coordinator*
217/333-6284
ckmitchell@fsi.illinois.edu

Beth Niswonger, *Business Operations*
217/244-6004
niswonge@fsi.illinois.edu

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Tim Lash, *Manager of System Services*
217/244-6910
timlash@fsi.illinois.edu

John Boyd
217/333-2163
jgboyd@fsi.illinois.edu

Kevin Kessler
217/265-9890
kkessler@fsi.illinois.edu

Roger Eveland
217/265-0547
reveland@fsi.illinois.edu

CORPORATE RELATIONS

Dennis Spice, *Director of Corporate Relations*
217/898-6507
dspice@fsi.illinois.edu

IFSI International Program

The Chinese Librarians Summer Program finished its seventh year in July with 27 participants. Some participants traveled from the larger Chinese universities, like Peking University, Zhejiang University, and Wuhan University – others from smaller universities – like Beijing Union University and Jinan University.

The participants were busy for three weeks with on-campus training, along with local site visits to the University of Illinois Library, the Illinois State Library, the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and the Champaign Public Library. The participants also had the opportunity in the fourth week to visit the Columbia University Library in New York City, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the University of California at Berkeley Library, and Stanford University. They acquired first-hand experience about American culture at a local American home in Champaign. They paid a visit to the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center and the firefighter training ground, guided by IFSI Deputy Director Roger Lunt. See photo below.

Four officers from Hong Kong Fire Services Department joined the IFSI Hazardous Materials Training Program in

March. The training was well-received.

In the fall, we welcomed the first two Korean firefighters from the Gyeonggi-do Fire Service Academy and Gangwon Fire Headquarters. They are taking a variety of IFSI courses, such as Command & General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams, Basic Firefighter Academy, Fire Prevention Principles, Fire and Arson Investigation, NFA National Fire Incident Reporting system, Management I, Tactics and Strategy, Management III, Hazardous Materials Incident Management System, Emergency Medical Technician Basic, and more.

*Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Program
Director*



During the summer, four library directors visited and interacted with people at the IFSI Library, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and University of Illinois Main Library as IFSI visiting scholars.



***Here's an opportunity to
invest in the new
Learning Resource and
Research Center***

Simply visit the IFSI web site, click on the IFSI Memorial Plaza Paving Bricks link under Quick Links at the bottom of the home page. Information is also available from Harry Clore at hclore@fsi.illinois.edu

IFSI honors its 2010-11 supporters.



Shown in the photo (from L to R) are Richard Singer, VP North American Sales at Akron Brass, Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, Kent Clasen, Akron Brass Sales Representative, Tom Hudak, President of Akron Brass, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Mike Porrevecchio, Education Coordinator at Akron Brass.



Brock Grain Systems was presented a 2010 appreciation award by IFSI for their support of the ag rescue training program through the donation of a grain bin for use in rescue training classes. Shown in the photo from left to right are: Doug Niemeyer, Vice President & General Manager at Brock Grain Systems, Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Safety Program Manager, Brian Bailey, Division Controller at Brock and Greg Guthrie, Plant Manager at Brock.



Judy Weigand, VP of AMKUS Rescue Systems receiving a 2010 IFSI award for their continued support of the auto extrication program.



Joe Drennan (right) presents an 2010 IFSI Award to Joe Simon, President of EMC Fire, for their continued support of IFSI through the use of Genesis Rescue tools in IFSI's auto extrication training program.



Decatur Memorial Hospital was recognized for donating a tanker rail car in 2010. Ken Smithmier, President/CEO of Decatur Memorial Hospital with Chris Downey, IFSI's HazMat Program Manager.



David Adler, President of Rescue Vac, received a 2010 IFSI appreciation award from Heather Moore, IFSI Trench Rescue Program Manager. Rescue Vac provided a vacuum system for use in trench rescue training courses.



Urbana Wal-Mart presented IFSI with a check in the amount of \$1,000. Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration (L) accepted the check from JP Patton, Urbana Wal-Mart Store Manager.



Caterpillar is honored for their continued support of providing truckloads of pallets during 2010. Brian Lewallen, Global Director of Environment, Health and Safety for Caterpillar (L) accepts the award from Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration.



The University of Illinois Employees Credit Union receives a 2010 IFSI award for their support of the Learning Resource and Research Center, as well as their continued support of the Fire Protection Engineering Program. Pictured left to right are Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations, EJ Donaghey, UIECU President and CEO, and Sharon Allen, Chairperson of UIECU Board and Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration.

Building Corporate Relations

The mission of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute is: *“to help firefighters do their work through training, education information and research.”* We want to thank, again, all the companies shown in the photos for their support of that mission.

The financial support and “gifts in kind,” make it possible for IFSI to train more firefighters and to assure that they have access to the most up-to-date facilities, props and materials. This also includes the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center which houses an expanded library, a firefighter memorial hall, laboratory space and an Emergency Operation Center training area.

Individuals as well as companies can help us fulfill our mission. You can play an important role in delivering training and building safer communities by becoming an IFSI Partner or referring us to companies in your area so that we may introduce them to the Institute.

The IFSI Fund was created to support our training efforts. It is easy to help. Go

to our web site at www.fsi.illinois.edu and follow the links under **GIVING** and choose the program you would like to support. You will receive step-by-step instructions on how to donate to the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute by credit card. Even a \$20 contribution will provide *more than one hour* of firefighter training!

IFSI takes pride in guaranteeing that 100 percent of every donation will be used to directly support firefighter training, education and research programs.

Gifts may be fully tax deductible. IFSI is part of the University of Illinois, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, who will provide documentation for donations.

If you would like to learn more about how to support IFSI training, research and education programs through donation to IFSI, please contact Dennis Spice, Director of Corporate Relations at 217-898-6507 or by email at dspice@fsi.illinois.edu.

*Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations*



Personnel from IFSI were interviewed for the RFD Today program in April. Participating in the interview about grain bin and ag safety issues are left to right: Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Safety Program Manager, Alan Jarand, Director of RFD Radio (facing camera), Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, and Julie Root, RFD Radio Network Anchor/Broadcast Editor.

Make the Most of the IFSI Website and the Student Resource Center: Website Primer

First-time login is for anyone who has previously registered to take a course at IFSI.

- Your driver's license number is your login and password.
- A password change form will open.
- Complete this fully (password requirements: upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).

Registering for access is for anyone who has never previously registered for an IFSI course OR the IFSI website.

- Click on the word Register in the upper right hand corner of the Home Page.
- Complete this form fully.
- Upon completion of this information, you will receive an email.
- You will then log in using the first-time log in steps above.

All other logins.

- Enter your driver's license number.
- Select your issuing state.
- Enter your password.
- Click the login button to proceed into the Resource Center.
- At any point if you press Reset you will clear the data entered on the form.

Student password reset.

- Click the "Reset Password" text on the login page to go to the password reset page.
- On this page it will ask you for your driver's license number, the state you are licensed in and your date of birth. Input your driver's license number without any dashes or spaces, the state you are licensed in, and your date of birth in the format shown on the web page.
- Click submit to proceed.
- This will take you to a screen where you can enter a new password. Password requirements: upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).
- You will enter the new password on the first line.
- Confirm the new password on the second line.
- At this point if you have entered a valid password the "SUBMIT" button will become clickable.
- Click submit.
- If the submit button does not become available to click, make sure your new password meets all the requirements. (upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).
- This will take you to a page that says "Password updated successfully."
- Under that you will see there is a link to return to the IFSI login page. Click that link and use your driver's license as the username and your new updated password to log in.



***Be sure to look for us on Facebook
under Illinois Fire Service Institute***

IFSI Introduces an Updated, more Robust Website



After nearly six months of planning and design, IFSI launched its updated web site on September 21. The new site is comprehensive, intuitive and easy to navigate. A new class will continue to be featured on the home page each week. Classes will be easy to find and enrollment will be easier. A course search option is featured in a prominent location. Both news and the Resource Center will be readily accessible on the home page. Let us know what you think.



The institute's newest training prop is a bin donated by Brock Systems. IFSI worked with a local machine shop to design and build a hinge, making the prop especially easy to transport and to set up quick for training at local departments.



IFSI attracts out-of-state students

IFSI's rescue program is highly regarded throughout the United States and attracts departments from across the country to learn from top rated instructors. During the week of September 12, six firefighters from the Flagstaff (Arizona) Fire Department traveled to Champaign to participate in the SWMD: Structural Collapse Operations class. IFSI has also hosted departments in Oklahoma and Wisconsin for their rescue training classes.



Featured Prop

This non-burn, multi-story training prop was designed using intermodal containers. The structure contains realistic environments of a laundromat, offices, machine shop, fitness center, complex stairwells, multiple apartments, and restaurant with commercial kitchen. First responders are challenged to work around equipment, furniture and other obstacles as they plan and implement fire fighting and rescue strategies. This prop will soon be outfitted with a fully functional alarm system and Class A smoke system.



Laundromat



Insurance office



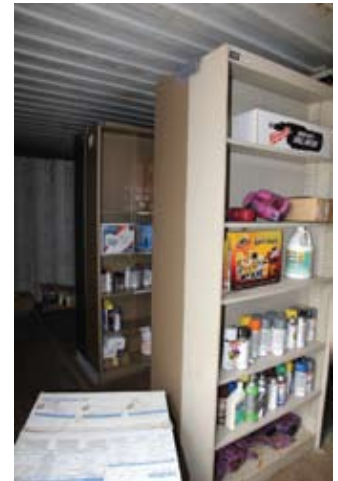
Apartment hallway



Restaurant



Hardware store



Looking down the stairway



Explorer-Cadet Fire School June 23-26, 2011 Champaign, Illinois

In June, IFSI held its 9th annual youth-oriented live-fire fighting school. Including the National Fire and Emergency Services Exploring Conference over 2,000 youth have participated in over 300 hours of Essentials, Water Supply, Auto Extrication, Firefighter Safety and Survival Techniques and Live Fire Fighting Training. Many of these young people have “aged” out of the youth groups and are full members of their career or “paid on call” departments. Some of these firefighters have “paid back” their groups by attending as volunteers for the event, mentoring the young people affiliated with their organizations and augmenting IFSI staff in the hands on skills rotations.

This year’s Explorer-Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School registered 98 sponsors, 120 first time youth participants and 129 “HOT” school veterans representing 43 separate fire service organizations from California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan and Wisconsin. More than 35 Explorers and Cadets attended a Core Competencies class held at and sponsored by the Frankfort Fire Protection District with IFSI staff coordinating the instruction. Those participants were able to start their experience at IFSI in Live Fire evolutions.

As has been the case for the last 9 years this event would not be possible without the help of the 65 field instructors, stokers, facility staff, full time employees and the dozen or so volunteers who taught the numerous skill stations, hauled water, filled SCBAs, served food, and provided the logistics necessary to run 48 different skill stations over a four-day period.

A special thanks to the dedicated adult advisors, leaders, sponsors and chaperones that sacrificed their time and resources to transport and mentor their youth last June. The event is truly impossible without their willingness to take the time and effort.

Mark your calendars for June 28, 29, 30 and July 1, 2012 for the 10th Annual Explorer-Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School.



*Greg Fisher
Explorer-Cadet Fire School
Manager*



Explorers are encouraged to take advantage of training at the 2012 Winter Fire School - January 28-29, 2012 in Champaign, Illinois. See web site for details. Enrollment begins October 31.



Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
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***IFSI Participates in University of Illinois Engineering Open House.
March 11-12***



IFSI sponsored a live-fire burn cell demonstration with a group of Engineering students led by Dan Martin (Mechanical Engineering) during the University of Illinois Engineering Open House. Over 1,000 students of all ages witnessed the demos. The demonstration won First Prize at the Open House.